

REFERENCES

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Banded Southern Giant Petrel recovered on Rottnest Island — On 8 July 1986 I found 2 dead Southern Giant Petrels *Macronectes giganteus* on the beach at the east end of Salmon Bay, Rottnest Island. One of the birds was freshly dead and the other had been dead for 2 or 3 days and been fed on by Silver Gulls *Larus novaehollandiae* and Australian Ravens *Corvus coronoides*. The latter Petrel was carrying a metal band numbered V03556 (Brazil). The Brazilian Banding Authorities informed me that the bird had been banded at Stinker Point, Elephant Island in the South Shetland Islands (61° 20'S, 55° 20' W) on 24 January 1986 and was a nestling of unknown sex. The bird had travelled about 14,000 km in around 160 days.

During late June and early July there were a number of reports of Southern Giant Petrels on beaches around Perth and I saw another Southern Giant Petrel about 30 m off Jubilee Point, Rottnest Island on 17 July 1986. This bird was chased off the water by a group of 6 Silver Gulls. It circled low over the water and settled back near its take-off point. Next day, there was another bird (or the same individual) about 50 m off the beach in Thomson Bay, Rottnest Island, half way between the Army Jetty and Philip Point.

— DENIS SAUNDERS, CSIRO Wildlife and Rangelands Research, Clayton Road, Helena Valley, 6056

First record of Leaden Flycatcher for South-western Australia — The Leaden Flycatcher *Myiagra rubecula* is an eastern coastal and tropical northern Australian species that has never been recorded in south-western Australia. Consequently, I was surprised to observe a lone male for two days on my farm at Cuthbert, 5 km west of Albany. He was first noticed on 7 December 1984 in a patch of *Agonis* near the work shed. It called frequently and repeatedly captured insects from ground level to a height of 13 m. He stayed until just after daybreak on 8 December. A colour photograph of the bird was taken and submitted to Julian Ford who confirmed my identification.

This is the second myiagrid flycatcher that has recently been added to the avifauna of south-western Australia, albeit as a vagrant. Brooker (*West. Aust. Nat.* 1974, 12: 181) collected an immature female Satin Flycatcher *M. cyanoleuca* at Twilight Cove on 12 April 1973. Both species are breeding migrants to south-eastern Australia, departing north in about April. Brooker did not speculate as to how his bird reached Twilight Cove but it might have gone astray during the northward migration. The circum-

stances regarding my bird are difficult to unravel because the species is generally stationary once it reaches its breeding quarters. Gusty easterly winds were blowing the day he arrived but it is difficult to envisage these blowing him all the way from Victoria or Tasmania.

— T. ALLEN, Cuthbert, via Albany.

Notes on a mistletoe weevil — *Metyrus albicollis* Germ. — *Metyrus albicollis* Germ., is a small, ca 10 mm, cryptic weevil found associated with the mistletoe *Amyema preissii* that grows on acacias. In Western Australia I have collected specimens from mistletoe in Jam, *Acacia acuminata*, at Goomalling, New Norcia, Northam and Williams, and for mistletoe in *A. rostellifera* at Geraldton, Greenough and Leeman.

The weevil has a wide distribution and Lea (1909) described specimens collected in Western Australia, South Australia, Victoria and Queensland. He referred to one of the specimens as "taken from a mistletoe".

I found that the larvae of *M. albicollis* feed inside the mistletoe stems and the enlarged haustorial areas. In the process they form round tunnels as they chew their way through the soft woody tissue. From observation of larval sizes and tunnel dimensions it may be deduced that the female weevil deposits eggs on the outer, fine stems of the mistletoe. The newly emerged larvae then burrow down the stems to the haustorial region. Only one larva will occupy a stem. In a large mistletoe there may be fifty stems with five to twenty occupied by developing larvae.

Adult *M. albicollis* can be found throughout the year. They complete their development in the swollen stem bases, or in the haustoria. They emerge as adults from round holes to feed on the mistletoe leaves. They rest in crevices on the haustoria and twigs or in the open situations where they resemble the droppings of the Mistletoe bird *Dicaeum hirundinaceum* (Figure 1).



Figure 1. *Metyrus albicollis* and dropping of Mistletoe bird. Northam, December 1969.